

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the Brown County Public Safety Committee was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at the Brown County Sheriff's Office, 2684 Development Drive, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Present: Chair Buckley, Supervisor Clancy, Supervisor Evans, Supervisor Zima, Supervisor Nicholson
Also Present: Sheriff John Gossage, Human Services Director Erik Pritzl, Behavioral Health Manager Ian Agar, Public Safety Communications Director Cullen Peltier, Emergency Management Director Jerad Preston, Supervisor Linssen, Director of Administration Chad Weininger, Medical Examiner Director of Operations Barry Irmen, Corporation Counsel Dave Hemery, District Attorney David Lasee, Brown County Patrol Captain Dan Sandberg, Officer Barb Gerarden – Green Bay Police Department, Captain Todd Le Pine – Green Bay Police Department, Commander Randy Tews – Ashwaubenon Public Safety, Lt. Terry Rottier – Ashwaubenon Public Safety, other interested parties

**Audio of this meeting is available by contacting the County Board office at 920-448-4015*

I. Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Buckley at 11:00 am.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Evans to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of January 4, 2017.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Public. None.

1. Review minutes of:

- a. Criminal Justice Coordinating Board (December 8, 2016).
- b. Local Emergency Planning Committee (January 10, 2017).
- c. Traffic Safety Commission (October 11, 2016).

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to suspend the rules and take Items 1 a - c together. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to receive and place on file Items 1 a - c. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

District Attorney

2. Budget carryover requests. *Held for one month.*

District Attorney David Lasee asked that this matter be held for one month.

Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Evans to hold for one month. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. RFP Project 2062 Process Service Provider.

Lasee informed that his office has had some issues with their current process server. He noted that Child Support uses the same process server and has also had issues. The current contract was a 3 year contract with the ability to extend. The 3 years is up and the DA's office is in the process of extending the contract while they go through the RFP process, but based on the issues they have had they decided it would be a good time to go out for bids on this.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to approve going through the RFP process for a process service provider. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. District Attorney's Report.

Lasee informed that the vacant positions he talked about in December have been filled. They moved some people from County positions into State positions and then hired for the open County positions. One of the positions will be starting next week and the other will be starting on March 6 and they will then be fully staffed.

Lasee also reported that there have been meetings with Technology Services regarding the new proposal for receiving documents from law enforcement agencies electronically. He said there are efficiencies to be gained and they will be moving forward with this. The system will be beneficial to not only the DA's office, but also to law enforcement when it gets going.

Supervisor Evans said he had a constituent contact him with regard to a homicide cold case in Bellevue. The person asked Evans what the DA's office is doing about it. Lasee responded that it is law enforcement's job to investigate crimes and when the case is turned over to the DA's office a decision is made as to charging. With regard to the case in Bellevue, Lasee is aware that there is ongoing investigation occurring and his office is working with law enforcement on subpoenas and search warrants and things of that nature.

Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Zima to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Communications

- 5. Communication from Supervisor Schadewald re: This is my request for the committee to evaluate Montana Meth Project commercials for possible use as public service announcements in Brown County. *Held for one month.***

Chair Buckley recalled that this was held from the last meeting so the Sheriff could look into some State programs. Sheriff Gossage said he continues to work on this and, in addition, he will be seeing the Attorney General later this month and will have some discussion with him on this as well.

Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to hold for one month. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 6. Communication from Supervisor Linssen re: Draft Resolution to State asking to increase penalties for 1st offense drunk driving to a criminal offense and increase penalties for subsequent offenses. *Held for one month.***

Supervisor Linssen said this was brought about following a discussion at the full County Board regarding seizure of vehicles in drunk driving offenses which was intended to frown upon the act of drunk driving. That resolution was passed 24 to 2 and Linssen was one of the 2 dissenting votes. He is of the opinion that if the County wants to take a serious stance against drunk driving, and he is willing to take that stance, that we should request the State to consider making first offense drunk driving a criminal offense and increase penalties on subsequent drunk

driving offenses. In particular Linssen would like to see second offenses that occur 2 years after the first be criminal and he noted that he thinks it is ridiculous that someone does not sit a single day in jail until their third OWI conviction. Linssen continued that if we want to send a strong message that drunk driving is not acceptable this is the best way to do it. He is aware of many studies that show that having an individual sit in jail for even a short period of time can be a strong deterrent and a way of keeping a person from engaging in similar behavior in the future. If Brown County is serious about wanting to stop drunk driving, Linssen feels we should ask the legislature to make it criminal and assign jail penalties. He is not necessarily saying that jail sentences need to be significantly long, but he feels some jail time would send a clear message that we take drunk driving seriously and do not tolerate it.

Buckley said there are a number of factors which would come into play by criminalizing a first time OWI and he asked DA Lasee to comment on this. Buckley also noted that Judge Zuidmulder is currently working on establishing an OWI Court which could have some of the outcomes Linssen is looking for. Supervisor Zima asked if it would be possible to draft some kind of legislation that would give a little leeway to assign jail time for a first time offense the way the laws currently stand. Linssen responded that Municipal Court judges do not have the ability to assign jail time and Zima said he was talking about legislation. DA Lasee said that Wisconsin is the only state where a first time OWI is not a crime but he is also aware of some states that do have a structure where a first time drunk driving is a criminal offense but has a structure similar to what Zima is talking about with some discretion to enter into deferred programs which encourage counseling and treatment. However, this is typically a complex structure, especially if there is a subsequent offense. Lasee said the concern is that if legislation like this would go into place, there would absolutely need to be a significant increase in resource to DA staff and likely judicial staff as well. He tends to agree with Linssen that making a first offense a crime would lead to a cultural shift that there is no "free" first OWI because it is not criminal. He noted that there are by far more OWI firsts than any other OWI and estimated that criminalizing the first offense would necessitate a minimum of two more prosecutors.

Buckley said Linssen could feel free to put a resolution together for consideration, but he also encouraged him to talk to Judge Zuidmulder with regard to the OWI Court he is trying to establish. Linssen is aware of the factors that Lasee brought up, and said there would also be questions as to minimum penalties, maximum penalties, etc. that would have to be worked through. His request is not necessarily to adopt a proposal, but he feels it is something that is important for the State to consider and for the State to know that Brown County would support if they chose to criminalize the first offense. He thinks it would send a strong message that Brown County does not tolerate drunk driving.

A discussion continued regarding the most appropriate way to get a resolution drafted on this. Corporation Counsel David Hemery explained the resolution process and it was decided that Linssen could put together an initial draft which would then go to the Department of Administration for any fiscal impact and then on to Corporation Counsel. He is happy to help in any way he can but he feels that Linssen would be the most appropriate person to draft the resolution.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to refer to Supervisor Linssen to draft a resolution. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Communication from Supervisor Buckley re: Request that the Human Services Director attend the next Public Safety meeting to explain how an inmate escaped from the secure portion of the CTC Center. *Held for one month.*

Human Services Director Erik Pritzl informed they are currently finishing up the last part of the security issue. They have changed some policies and procedures and have signed off on a physical fence change. They have quotes for the fencing and it just has to be installed. Pritzl said that they are using a similar product to what Winnebago uses and noted that since Winnebago installed similar fencing, their elopements were reduced to zero.

Evans expressed concern about someone who is in custody being put into a population of people at the CTC who are not incarcerated and are in the CTC because they have real needs. He asked how the people in the CTC are protected against those that are brought in who previously were in a facility with corrections officers and could potentially be violent. He feels this is creating bigger issues and asked what procedures and policies are in place for those at the CTC who are in need of treatment but are not criminals. Pritzl responded that there is nothing different done with the two populations. The level of supervision and structure is the same regardless of who the population is. If there is some disruption, there are procedures in place to deescalate with verbal or non-violent needs and they also have measures in place to escort someone to a seclusion situation if necessary. This must be agreed to by a psychiatrist as well. Pritzl added they are responsible for the facility and care of everyone there. Evans said it would be interesting to see how many inmates come to the CTC for treatment. Evans reiterated his concern of taking a person who is coming from a jail population who has been arrested for criminal activity and putting them in a facility with people who are not criminals. Pritzl said they can do one-on-one supervision when they feel there is potential for problems and, in addition, if there is a concern of the ability to care for someone in custody while caring for the others on the unit, the County can decline the admission.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Evans to receive and place on file. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. **Communication from Supervisor Buckley re: To review with Law Enforcement the EM-1/Alcohol Hold in Brown Co. Like to have the Human Services Director and representatives from area Law Enforcement Depts. to discuss possible solutions for the amount of time officers have to spend with people in need of care, that are in the custody of police. *Referred from the January County Board.***

Buckley informed he brought this forward to have a discussion to try to come up with solutions for the amount of time officers need to spend with the people in need of care. He has talked to a number of officers and this seems to go back quite a ways, but the issues continue to exist. Buckley is aware that there is an EM1 committee, but feels that some of the needs may be escaping the discussion. He is hearing that the time the officers are spending on these cases far exceeds what it should, especially from a fiscal standpoint. He is not trying to downplay the needs of the person they are dealing with, but his concern is the amount of man hours being spent on EM1s.

Buckley explained that from the time the calls go out, the person in need of help is taken to the Crisis Center, and then to the hospital for medical clearance and then possibly to the CTC or somewhere else like Winnebago or Mendota. This process is taking in excess of 12 hours in some cases and this is not a good option for law enforcement or the person who needs help. He would like to find out what would help law enforcement do their jobs on these EM1s more efficiently. He said he recently toured the Willow Creek facility and it made him realize that the County currently has an archaic process that could be streamlined.

A number of law enforcement officers from various jurisdictions were present and Supervisor Nicholson asked what they would like to see happen to improve the process. Supervisor Zima said Green Bay is now training police officers to deal with mental health issues and they are also trying to get to the point where crisis workers are allowed into the hospital emergency rooms. Zima feels this is one thing that needs to be addressed to help speed up the process. This is something that had been discussed at the Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee and he feels that perhaps this is something that should be put on the agenda for that meeting again.

Pritzl said one of the things Human Services has been working on is the access of crisis staff to emergency departments. Some emergency departments let crisis in, while others do not. Pritzl said they worked two different paths on this; either the hospitals could do some of the functions of crisis or they could allow crisis staff into the emergency departments. The hospitals have chosen to go with the latter option of allowing crisis staff into the emergency departments. Pritzl recently received an agreement between Brown County and HSHS regarding allowing crisis staff into the emergency department. Corporation Counsel will review the agreement and hopefully it will be finalized soon and crisis staff will then have access to all emergency rooms. Not allowing

crisis into the emergency departments adds a lot of time to the process which is not helpful. Buckley said from discussions he had at Willow Creek, it seems to be a one stop shop which seems to be a better approach for everyone involved. He said the County has a lot of steps in their process and he feels that there are ways to become more efficient. Some options would be having crisis staff right at the CTC, contracting with one of the hospitals similar to what La Crosse does where the hospital actually handles the crisis part or contracting with Willow Creek. Zima asked how Willow Creek works and Buckley explained his understanding is that the officer can bring someone to Willow Creek, the person can be medically cleared there and also have the assessment part done right there and then the person can also be housed at Willow Creek.

Pritzl said the first thing to determine is what we want out of crisis services and who should deliver the services. We know how crisis services statutorily and problematically have to operate. Counties have two options when it comes to crisis services; they can either do it themselves or designate someone and contract. Brown County designates and contracts and this is normal in many ways. Pritzl has asked Corporation Counsel if the County could contract with more than one provider and was advised that we could. Most counties typically select only one provider to do the crisis, authorization and assessments to alleviate having to coordinate multiple sites using the same tools. Pritzl said that between \$900,000 - \$1 million dollars is paid on an annual basis for all crisis services. The entire assessment process is handled by the Crisis Center because that is the only contract the County has at this time. Pritzl said there are other entities that provide similar crisis assessment services and the normal process would be for the County to sketch out what we want and then put it out for bids.

Evans asked if Willow Creek is a Chapter 51 facility. Pritzl said they are an inpatient hospital. Department of Health Services and Division of Quality Assurance has given them all their rules to operate. They are a public facility that accepts admissions. Pritzl would have to ask the State if they are approved as a Chapter 51 facility, although other counties have already used Willow Creek in that way.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to open the floor to allow interested parties to speak. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

-Captain Todd Le Pine, Green Bay Police Department

Le Pine said that he worked the night shift for quite a while and dealt with these issues quite a bit. He is now a Captain of District 8 and is on the EM1 Subcommittee for medical clearance and on the EM1 Committee where they try to work through these problems. A few months ago he was very frustrated with the problem, but he feels that it is getting better. He attributes this to cooperation with community partners and the fact that the GBPD has recently promoted Officer Barb Gerarden to mental health officer and they will be promoting another officer to mental health officer. These officers will be designated for 4 years to deal with people in mental health crisis and processes such as this.

Le Pine continued that there were over 600 EM1s last year in the City of Green Bay. In each of these cases they take the person into custody and the person then goes to some mental health facility, whether it is the CTC, Bellin or somewhere else like Winnebago County Mental Health. He said that last year they took people to Winnebago 20+ times which is not a very good option because it takes two officers off the road for a very long time. In comparison, there were about the same number of retail thefts in the City last year as there were EM1s. Green Bay Police Chief Andrew Smith currently has an initiative on this where he has assigned a number of officers to come up with ways to solve these problems. This is an issue that the PD deals with every day and Le Pine said that in the last 24 hours they have had 4 EM1 cases and there is a 5th at the hospital right now. He said they are EM1'ing everyone from fourth graders to 80 year old people; this is affecting the entire community, not just the poor or homeless or people with any kind of a stigma.

Le Pine continued that from his experience there are 3 factors that cause the in custody times to be so long. The first issue is capacity issues at the hospitals in Green Bay. He feels this will start to improve with Willow Creek as it is another place they can bring people and it should be helpful to the entire system. The second thing that takes a lot of time is chronic people. There are people that they deal with on a weekly basis and sometimes even on a daily basis that are suicidal, homicidal, or on the street with such high alcohol levels that they become a danger to themselves or others. This population is very difficult to deal with because they have pretty much burned their bridges and have not

responded to treatment. When law enforcement starts dealing with these people, they cannot just let them go; they have to get them to a spot, whether it is the CTC, Bellin Psych, Willow Creek or Winnebago. It takes an incredible amount of time to determine what to do with someone if there is a capacity issue. Typically on an EM1, the officer will go to the person's home or wherever the person is to do an initial assessment. They then bring them to the Crisis Center on Crooks Street. Le Pine said that mobile crisis has been working well. Once the crisis worker has evaluated the person, they start to make calls to the treatment centers to try to find a bed for the person. If there are not beds available locally, the law enforcement officer is forced to take the person to Winnebago. Winnebago requires medical clearance that sometimes takes 6 – 7 hours. They also require a blood alcohol level under .08. Often these people become suicidal when they are highly intoxicated and law enforcement ends up sitting with the person in the emergency room until they sober up so they can be brought to Winnebago County.

The third thing Le Pine sees as an issue is the lack of voluntary options in the County. There are a lot of people that present with a mental health crisis that want help. The unfortunate thing is if they present themselves to the ER, the ER's first call is to law enforcement. Once law enforcement is there, they really cannot let the person go as they are technically in custody and law enforcement has to stay with them through the end of the process which takes hours. There should be 2 officers on every one of these calls for the safety of the law enforcement officers. They have had chronic people in custody for hours while they are looking for someplace to take them.

Le Pine continued that the process is getting better and the mental health officers are working with the community partners to continue to improve the process. The mobile crisis has also been helpful. There is also a medical clearance committee that is trying to unify the medical clearance so it is acceptable to all area hospitals. Changes have also been made to the way overdoses are handled which may help alleviate law enforcement involvement after the person is stabilized. Le Pine said there is someone at the PD who tracks the amount of time each EM1 takes. In the last 24 hours the EM1s they handled that did not need medical clearance took between 3 – 3 ½ hours and he finds this acceptable, but he would like to see it a little shorter. The incident that did require medical clearance took 6 ½ hours and that is all time that the officers are off the road and not able to respond to other calls. He would like to see the average below 3 hours. They want to help everyone and get them to a place where they can get the help they need. He feels the process will continue to improve, especially with the two mental health officers. Le Pine said the Chief's goal is to have clinician teams where an officer and a mental health officer go out together and be proactive and check on people. He is only speaking for the City of Green Bay and he is encouraged. So far in 2017 they have had 48 welfare checks which resulted in 30 EM1s. He noted that there were 5,500 welfare checks in the City last year. The officers do a tremendous job dealing with this issue.

Zima asked what percent of the people they deal with are chronic. Officer Barb Gerarden said that there is a top 10 of chronic people. Le Pine added that some of the chronic people get out of a facility and within 2 or 3 days they are dealing with them again, sometimes multiple times in a day. Zima recalled that at one time the County had a longer term treatment facility, but it was closed under the Kelso administration. He feels the community has suffered because of this for a long time and we need to build up the facilities within the County so we are not sending people out to other counties. He would like to see this process turned into a one stop thing where the person is taken to a mental health facility, detoxed and then put into treatment. He would like to see a longer term treatment facility available to get people the help they need instead of building extra pods at the jail and he feels that money needs to be put forth to resolve the mental health and alcohol issues. Zima said if some resources were put towards this and the system was streamlined, it would be very beneficial all the way around. He also feels if there is longer term treatment available, there could be some success. Le Pine said there is hardly anything at the Police Department that they deal with more than people in mental health crisis. Zima feels that jail space could be saved with more resources and a streamlined system and we have to build on models that show success and not keep spinning our wheels and spending money on things that do not work.

Le Pine said when someone is in a mental health crisis and they go to the emergency room, the emergency room will call the police and the police then spend 4 – 5 hours trying to figure out who will take the person. The person already feels worthless and helpless and the system in place right now only validates everything they feel about themselves. This is something law enforcement deals with on a daily basis. Zima asked Le Pine to attend the Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee meetings and he said that he would be happy to attend and felt that Officer Gerarden would attend as well.

-Captain Dan Sandberg, Patrol Division Director, Brown County Sheriff's Department

Sandberg thanked Human Services Director Erik Pritzl and Behavioral Health Manager Ian Agar for the positive changes that have been made to the current system. He said that Brown County took 423 people into protective custody last year and noted that there has been a 20% increase from 2014. The problem is growing in the County and he feels that we have to look at an operational shift. He feels that a one stop shop model is something we should look at and noted that an EM1 call takes more time than any other call. When someone is in custody for many hours, they are not getting the help they need. If there was a place law enforcement could take someone where they are assessed, medically cleared and bedded at the same place, people will be getting the help they need. This is where an operational shift is needed because between all of the agencies in the County, there are thousands of EM1 calls each year. Changes and adjustments have been made with medical clearance, capacity issues, etc. but the County is big enough that we need to look at changing the way we do this operation. The Crisis Center has great people who do great things, but we have to have a shift from where they are sitting in their offices downtown and get them into the hospitals. This will not only create efficiencies for law enforcement, but it will also help get these people the help they need immediately instead of sitting in a hospital with a police officer for hours not getting help.

-Lt. Terry Rottier, Ashwaubenon Public Safety

Rottier said he recently joined the EM1 committee. He noted that there had been some obstacles involved in getting crisis into the hospitals, but now this is being worked out. Prior to crisis being allowed in the hospitals, law enforcement would pick someone up, bring them to crisis, go for medical clearance where they would sit at the hospital for several hours, and then back to the Crisis Center so a decision could be made as to where to take the person. The hospitals will now be allowing crisis staff into the emergency departments to start evaluating the person while they are waiting for labs. Zima said that all of the improvements that are being talked about are a result of the Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee.

Rottier continued that there are still roadblocks that need to be overcome. He agreed that a one stop shop is needed. He also feels that the subject of labs needs to be discussed. Depending on who you are talking to, they are making law enforcement take people to the hospital for med clearance for things like high blood pressure. He questions why medical treatment is ordered when it is not an issue that should be addressed at the time. He noted that the holidays are the worst time. If we can get over the obstacles and get everything in one place it would be very beneficial. He agreed with the others that the EM1 cases are taking way too much law enforcement time.

-Commander Randy Tews, Ashwaubenon Public Safety

Tews talked about a case from earlier in the week where a person was taken to the hospital and law enforcement asked if crisis could come in and evaluate the person while the labs were being done and he was told that crisis was not credentialed to be in the hospital which he finds unacceptable. In another case, an officer was with someone for almost 8 hours while the CTC charge nurse and emergency room doctor went back and forth on what tests needed to be done. When the person was finally cleared, he went back home to his wife, who he earlier had thoughts of stabbing. Tews agreed with Zima that things went downhill when the County closed the Mental Health Center. In the past, law enforcement would pick someone up and take them to the MHC and be back in service. He continued that there are only two officers on the road, so if one officer is tied up on an EM1, they have to call someone in on overtime at the rate of about \$60 per hour. There is no reason they should be having to have officers sit and watch someone sober up in a bed before they can take them somewhere. It is unacceptable. Every EM1 they do takes a minimum of 3 – 4 hours, and many times longer.

Zima said the County needs to get their licensing back and build a facility so we can have a one stop shop to get people the treatment they need right away and not tie up all the law enforcement time.

-Officer Barb Gerarden, Green Bay Police Department

Gerarden informed the Police Department has worked really closely with their partners on the med clearance task force and they have come up with a lot of good solutions, but unfortunately it is taking some time to get things in place. Everyone agrees that having crisis in the emergency departments is a great idea and it is close to happening, but not quite there yet. She continued that in August the average time law enforcement spent on an EM1 was over 14 hours. Over the course of 5 months they have gotten the average time down to under 4 hours, although some do take longer. The process changes so far have made an improvement, but there still are a number of problems to work

through. She referenced mobile crisis and said that although it is available, some officers do not use it because it can still take a long time to get the crisis workers on scene. Mobile crisis tries to have a 20 minute response time, but that depends on how busy they are at the time they receive the call. She agreed with others that a one stop shop would be the ideal situation. She also feels having a crisis worker stationed at Bay Haven or the CTC would be beneficial. She also feels if there is a need for transport for medical clearance, EMS should be doing that instead of law enforcement because it is a medical issue. Gerarden continued that Milwaukee has a one stop shop and does not get tied up on these cases as long as Brown County does.

Zima asked what percent of calls eventually end up in the jail. The response was that most of the time if someone ends up at the jail, it is because they have outstanding warrants. The EM1s are more of a healthcare issue than a criminal issue. Gerarden said that sometimes as a last ditch effort charges are referred and then the person is referred to mental health court. The Police Department is trying very hard to decriminalize the mentally ill and are working closely with partners on this.

Buckley asked Gerarden if she has an approximate amount of man hours spent on EM1s for 2016. She would be able to get that information together for the last 6 months. Buckley said it is very impactful when trying to get something done to hear how many hours law enforcement is being tied up on these cases. Gerarden said that in August they spent 956 hours on EM1s which costs a substantial amount of money. Buckley said statistical information is very helpful when taking things like this to the County Board. It appears to him that everyone in attendance is in favor of the one stop shop model.

Gerarden added that they would also like to have some sort of expedited process in place for the chronic cases. It does not make sense to have these people medically cleared every time they are brought into the Crisis Center. Buckley asked why the chronic cases cannot go directly to the CTC. Pritzl said that by law, every time someone is taken into custody they have to go through an assessment. Zima and Buckley both feel that having crisis staff right at the CTC would alleviate some of this. Pritzl responded that the laws are designed so all of the processes preserve the rights of the individual. He said there was a time in the past that law enforcement could pick someone up and bring them to a facility without anything else. Pritzl said that the medical clearance portion of the process is included in the statutes. A one stop shop would allow the person to get their rights determined more quickly as to if they should be restricted or not. It was noted that a person cannot be admitted to a facility until those decisions are made.

Pritzl said that in the case of what La Crosse is doing, they contract with a facility that is not only a medical hospital, but also a psychiatric hospital so their process is streamlined somewhat. Buckley asked how Willow Creek handles medical clearance. Gerarden said that she has talked to Willow Creek about this and they have a doctor on call for when medical needs arise. Zima said that in an exceptional case, the person could always be brought to the hospital for medical clearance, but he feels the number of those cases would be small.

Evans recalled in the past Family Services considered putting staff at the Crisis Center. Family Services was in favor of it, but it turned out to be a funding issue and it did not happen. He said Family Services feels they go above and beyond what the scope is and he thinks the dialogue needs to be reopened with Family Services on this. He also recalled when this all changed from the Mental Health Center, it became a civil rights issue where you cannot really take a person into custody because it violates their civil rights. He feels this is a difficult situation, but likes the idea of a one stop shop and would not have a problem building on an area for that at the CTC. He also talked about Willow Creek and said he is glad they are offering the services they are, but it will be interesting to see how long they do it. He would not be surprised if Willow Creek stops taking people in by the end of the year. Gerarden said we need a voluntary option and that is one thing that Willow Creek brings. Calls seem to have decreased a little bit and she feels that some of this is due to the voluntary option.

Evans feels we also need to consider the danger this process brings to law enforcement personnel. He worries about a young officer with not a lot of experience going on a mental health call and taking a person into custody and then the person turning around saying their rights were violated and a lawsuit is filed and a career ruined. Evans also feels a one stop shop model works and should be explored.

Buckley would like to take a look at what we are doing with the Crisis Center and how much it is costing. He feels we have to find a more streamlined process for the chronic population. The next thing Buckley feels is important is to

work with the agencies to gather information on Willow Creek and how they operate. He would also like some of the law enforcement present to look into how other areas around the State are handling the EM1 process. Buckley feels the County needs to go to more of a one stop shop model and asked Corporation Counsel to think about what type of contact the County would need for something like this. He also feels that a group should be put together to work on the goal of a one stop shop at the CTC or some other facility. Buckley would like to see the numbers as to the amount of hours law enforcement is spending on these types of things so a dollar figure can be put to it.

Gerarden said that removing someone from Brown County to a facility such as Winnebago when the County does not have bed space is removing the person from their whole support system which just causes more damage. The bed shortage hopefully will get a little better with Willow Creek. Pritzl said he has spoken to Willow Creek about contracting with them to help with the capacity issue. He has been to Willow Creek a number of times and said that the discussion changes frequently as to what they will do. He feels every facility should have the capacity to do admissions for voluntary people. Emergency detentions use a very different process and what Willow Creek is describing seems to be a voluntary process layered into an emergency detention situation. Pritzl noted that Willow Creek has not operated in Wisconsin in the past and are still learning the process. Although it is possible to contract with more than one facility for crisis, Pritzl said he would have significant concerns about designating a facility that has an inpatient unit that is making decisions as to whether someone should be in an inpatient unit.

Gerarden also said that when people are in custody for extended hours, the use of force goes up and she feels that is something that could lead to increased costs if lawsuits were filed. This is something that could be eliminated in a more streamlined process.

Zima shared that he has been involved with mental health issues in Brown County for 40 years. He feels what we really need is a public facility that can provide all of the services that are needed. He recalled that there was another hospital in town a number of years ago similar to Willow Creek, but it did not last long. He said all of the hospitals are for profit and he feels we need a one stop shop that is a public facility that is a permanent benefit to the community and not dependent on the whims of the CEOs of the hospitals that are trying to make money. He recalled reading that Willow Creek originally said they would serve everyone, regardless of ability to pay, but when more questions were asked, he found that there were a number of stipulations attached to that. Zima feels the problems have to be solved by reversing what Carol Kelso did in the past. He said right now our facilities are inadequate for the needs and we have to keep our eye on the prize and do something comprehensive. There is land available at the CTC site to put everything together so that all we need can be done in one place. He thinks the County can do this much more efficiently and effectively than the for profit operations that come and go. He continued that the County could also accept admissions from other counties to help offset the cost. The Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee continues to work on these issues. He said we have to establish what we need and make it a permanent part of our operations and he feels the County is spending a lot more money the way we are doing things now than having our own facility. Baby steps have been made and he appreciated the comments of law enforcement, but we need to bring the community together. Zima said he gets very frustrated when the bureaucrats come up with laws that we then have to change. He is optimistic about the new Police Chief in Green Bay and feels that he is focused on getting things done and he said that JOSHUA has also been very supportive.

Buckley asked Pritzl to come back to the next Public Safety meeting to update the Committee and also asked law enforcement to gather some numbers as to how much time and money is being spent by on EM1s.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to have Human Services Director Erik Pritzl come back to the next Public Safety Committee meeting with a dollar amount of the Crisis Center contract, ideas and information on how to streamline the EM1 process for frequent contacts, information on Willow Creek operations and an update regarding medical clearance. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Medical Examiner

9. 2017 Medical Examiner Activity.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Evans to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Resolution re: Reorganization of the Medical Examiner Department Table of Organization.

Medical Examiner Director of Operation Barry Irmen said there were proposed MOUs with Door and Oconto counties and that money will more than offset the hiring of another full-time investigator which will put the County in a better position for staffing and response time.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Discussion and Potential Approval of Proposed Addendum to Medical Examiner Services Intergovernmental Agreements with Door and Oconto Counties."

Irmen explained that right now the employees in Brown, Door and Oconto Counties fall under their respective counties and this addendum will make all employees of the Medical Examiner's Office Brown County employees. There will be four full-time staff and all part-time staff will be Brown County employees which will improve the ability to manage the staff and keep them engaged.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. Medical Examiner's Report.

Irmen reported that the statistics are pretty much in line with last year. Cremations are down a little but, but that is a number that continues to fluctuate. At this time Irmen feels the office is in good shape.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sheriff

13. Resolution in Support of Legislation to Classify County Jailers as Protective Occupation Participants (POPs) for WRS Purposes.

Buckley indicated that this should be held for one month due to some confusion in the resolution. The resolution language will be clarified and brought back next month. Sheriff Gossage noted that he is fully in support of this but noted that the draft of the legislation has not been prepared yet and he wants to wait until there is a bill to look at before the resolution is finalized.

Supervisor Clancy asked Gossage what the chances of this being passed are. Gossage responded that it is his understanding that if there is zero fiscal impact to the State it may be included in the budget to joint finance or it may be going to a bill and noted that it has bipartisan support at this time.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to hold for one month. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. Sheriff's Report.

Gossage did not have anything to report other than what was discussed above.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Circuit Courts, Commissioners, Probate – No agenda items.

Clerk of Courts – No agenda items.

Emergency Management – No agenda items.

Public Safety Communications – No agenda items.

Other

15. Audit of bills.

Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Evans to pay the bills. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. Such other matters as authorized by law. None.

17. Adjourn.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to adjourn at 12:57 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary